

## National Agricultural Summary

September 4 - 10, 2000

Weekly National Agricultural Summary provided by USDA/NASS

### HIGHLIGHTS

**Above-normal temperatures accelerated ripening of row crops, and dry weather aided harvest progress in the Great Plains, lower Mississippi Valley, and Corn Belt. Cool, wet weather hindered crop development and delayed harvest progress in the Atlantic Coast States, especially along the Coastal Plains. Below-normal temperatures also delayed**

**ripening in the Pacific Coast States, but fieldwork continued without rain delays. Winter wheat seeding slowly progressed in the Great Plains. Rain eased moisture shortages along the eastern Gulf Coast and southern Atlantic States, but drought relief was isolated in the interior lower Mississippi Valley and adjacent parts of the Southeast.**

**Corn:** Eighty-seven percent of the crop was at or beyond the dent stage and 46 percent was mature. Development was about 1 week ahead of the normal pace of 76 percent dented and 25 percent mature. Denting slightly trailed last year's 88-percent pace, but only 38 percent was mature by this date last year. Late-week warmth accelerated denting around the Great Lakes, but progress remained well behind normal in Michigan and Wisconsin. Fields quickly ripened across most of the Corn Belt and Great Plains due to hot weather. Thirty-three percent matured during the week in Nebraska, and more than 20 percent ripened in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, and Missouri. Maturation lagged around the Great Lakes and along the Atlantic Coast. The harvest advanced to 7 percent complete, equal to the early start last year and ahead of the 4-percent average for this date. Harvest was active in the central Great Plains, and along the Mississippi, Ohio, and Tennessee River Valleys in the southern Corn Belt. More than one-third of the crop was harvested in Kansas, while nearly one-half of the acreage was harvested in Tennessee. Across most of the Corn Belt, the harvest pace gradually gained momentum. Much of the crop was unaffected by moisture shortages, but conditions deteriorated in late-maturing fields in parts of the Corn Belt and Great Plains.

**Soybeans:** Thirty-seven percent of the acreage was dropping leaves, ahead of last year's 25-percent pace and 1 week ahead of the 18-percent average. Above-normal temperatures accelerated ripening in most of the Corn Belt. Acreage shedding leaves advanced 30 percentage points in Iowa and 20 or more percentage points in Illinois, Indiana, and Minnesota. Hot weather also stimulated development in the Great Plains. Twenty-six percent of the acreage began dropping leaves in North Dakota during the week, while 18 percent began dropping leaves in Kansas and Nebraska. In Michigan, warmer weather returned late in the week, but development remained behind the 5-year average. Harvest progress, at 2 percent, was equal to last year and slightly ahead of the 5-year average. About one-third of the acreage was harvested in Mississippi and Louisiana, more than double the normal pace. The harvest pace accelerated in Kansas, and progress was well ahead of the 5-year average. Late-maturing fields were stressed by moisture shortages across parts of the Corn Belt, Great Plains, and lower Mississippi Valley. Fields in Michigan need more heat to accelerate development.

**Cotton:** Bolls were opening on 61 percent of the crop, ahead of last year's 56-percent pace and 10 percentage points ahead of the 5-year

average. Hot weather quickly ripened late-maturing fields in the lower Mississippi Valley. Above-normal temperatures also stimulated ripening in adjacent parts of the Southeast and southern Great Plains. Fields quickly ripened in the Atlantic Coastal Plains and eastern Gulf Coast, despite cooler-than-normal temperatures. Ten percent of the acreage was picked, compared with 7 percent last year and the 8-percent average for this date. Progress was most advanced in Texas and lower Mississippi Valley. Conditions deteriorated due to cool, wet weather in the mid-Atlantic States. Moisture shortages stressed less mature fields in the southern Great Plains and parts of the interior Mississippi Delta.

**Small grains:** The spring wheat and barley crops were 93 and 96 percent harvested, respectively, more than 1 week ahead of the 5-year average and about 2 weeks ahead of last year's pace. Dry weather aided efforts to finish the harvest. Six percent of the winter wheat was planted, behind last year's 8-percent pace and the 9-percent average for this date. Hard, dry soils limited the seeding pace.

**Rice:** Thirty-eight percent was harvested, 4 percentage points behind last year's pace, but slightly ahead of the average for this date. In Arkansas and Mississippi, hot weather quickly ripened fields, and dry weather aided rapid harvest. The harvest pace gained momentum in California, and the harvest season neared completion in Louisiana and Texas.

**Other crops:** Eighty-nine percent of the sorghum acreage was turning color and 66 percent was mature. Development through stages was well ahead of last year and the 5-year average. Forty-two percent was harvested, well ahead of last year and the 5-year average. The harvest was most advanced in the lower Mississippi Valley. In Arkansas and Louisiana, the harvest was 76 and 89 percent complete, respectively. Progress remained active in the southern Plains and gained momentum in the central and northern Great Plains and southern Corn Belt. Nearly three-fourths of the crop was harvested in Texas.

Three percent of the peanut crop was harvested, compared with 8 percent a year ago. Hard, dry soils hindered digging in Alabama and Georgia early in the week, and persistent showers restricted progress after mid-week. Harvest accelerated in Florida, where loose soils aided progress. In the southern Great Plains, the harvest slowly progressed. Cool, damp weather promoted diseases in the Atlantic Coastal Plains.